

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for maximizing the use of available capacity in a communication system having a base station and a plurality of mobile
5 stations. The forward link includes a plurality of traffic streams sent on at least one channel from the base station to the mobile stations. The forward link is subject to a maximum power ceiling. A first output power level associated with simultaneously transmitting a first set of one or more traffic streams on the forward link is initially determined. Next, the first output power level is
10 compared to the maximum power ceiling; and at least one time frame in the forward link having available capacity for transmitting a portion of at least one further traffic stream is identified. The first set of traffic streams and the portion of the at least one further traffic stream are then transmitted simultaneously during the at least one frame on the forward link.

15